

HEALTH  
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RURAL DISTRICT OF  
MORPETH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1951

ASHINGTON :  
J. WILKINSON, HIGH MARKET.  
1952.



# REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1951

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth  
Rural District Council*

LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for 1951 of the Medical Officer of Health.

The vital statistics are less satisfactory than in 1950.

The birth-rate has declined and is now practically the same as that for England and Wales.

There has been a considerable rise in the death-rate, which is slightly higher than the national figure. The main causes of this rise are an increase of 8 (36 compared with 28) in deaths from malignant disease, an increase of 20 (106 as against 86) in deaths from diseases of the heart, blood vessels and circulation, an increase of 15 (22 as against 7) in deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis, and an increase of 6 in deaths from accidents, which were exactly twice as many as in 1950. The influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year caused 5 deaths and the increased number of deaths from respiratory infections is, at least in part, a reflection of the prevalence of such infections at the time of the epidemic.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is lower than in 1950, but is still higher than the corresponding rate for the country as a whole.

There was no serious outbreak of any notifiable infectious disease. The only one which occurred in any numbers was Measles, and there was no death from this cause. For the second successive year no case of Diphtheria occurred.

The progress made with the various schemes for improving water supplies gives some cause for satisfaction, particularly in connection with the Broomhill and East Chevington area, where improved amenities are long overdue.

In the Morpeth Rural District, as in all other parts of the country, the greater need of the community is to have an adequate number of houses. It is indeed disappointing that only 12 houses were completed during the year by the local authority. There can be no doubt that overcrowding and the domestic friction which arises when two or more families have to share a house are causing incalculable physical and mental distress. It should not be supposed that the psychological aspect of this problem, though less easily appreciated, is less serious or less detrimental to health and happiness, than the physical.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I should like to thank you for the consideration which you have extended to me and to express my appreciation of the assistance which I have received from the staffs of the Health Department and other departments of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGregor,

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Rural District of Morpeth.*



## RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

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### OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Sanitary	}	Inspector	...	...	MR. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs., Meat Inspector's Certs.
Housing					
Meat					
Additional Sanitary Inspector	...	...	...	...	MR. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. & Meat Inspector's Certs.
Offices of the Rural District Council	...	...	...	...	Dacre Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	...	...	...	...	Morpeth 24.
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	...	...	146 Station Road, Ashington.
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# RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1951

### SECTION A

The Morpeth Rural District has an area of 79,193 acres and is bounded on the east by the sea, on the south by the Urban Districts of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Ashington and a small section of Bedlingtonshire, and the Rural District of Castle Ward, on the west by Bellingham Rural District, and on the west and north by Rothbury and Alnwick Rural Districts. It encircles the Borough of Morpeth, having a narrow strip lying between the Borough boundary and the Castle Ward boundary.

The eastern part of the district contains the majority of the population and there the main occupation is coal-mining, which is carried out at Pegswood, Lynemouth, Ellington, Linton, Stobswood, Widdrington and Broomhill Collieries.

The remainder of the area, lying to the west and of much wider extent than the industrial portion, is relatively sparsely populated. Here the bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture; mainly dairy and stock, but with some arable farming.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres ... ..	79,193
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1951 ... ..	17,910
Rateable Value ... ..	£69,562
One Penny Rate produces ... ..	£280-4-11
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1951) ... ..	4,707

#### VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS :—Live Births:				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	255	140	115
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8	4	4
				<hr/> 263	<hr/> 144	<hr/> 119
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..						14.68
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability factor 1.07) ... ..						15.71
Still Births:				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	9	3	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	0	0	0
				<hr/> 9	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 6
Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births ... ..						33.09
Rate per 1,000 of the population ... ..						0.50
DEATHS :—				Total	Male	Female
				211	119	92
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ... ..						11.78
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability factor 1.12) ... ..						13.19
Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion (Heading 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)						Nil
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:				Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	3	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	1	0
				<hr/> 6	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 2

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	38.02
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	58.06
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... ..	125.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	36
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	1

The Registrar General supplies the followings :—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1951

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other forms ... ..	1	—
3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..	—	—
4. Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections ... ..	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	—
8. Measles ... ..	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ... ..	—	2
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..	5	7
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..	2	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ... ..	—	4
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... ..	8	7
15. Leukoemia, Aleukæmia ... ..	1	1
16. Diabetes ... ..	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	14	15
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..	22	4
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..	2	1
20. Other Heart Disease ... ..	16	22
21. Other Circulatory Disease ... ..	5	5
22. Influenza ... ..	1	4
23. Pneumonia ... ..	8	1
24. Bronchitis ... ..	10	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	1	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations ... ..	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... ..	8	5
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	4	2
34. All other Accidents ... ..	4	2
35. Suicide ... ..	3	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War ... ..	—	—
	<hr/> 119	<hr/> 92

Death of Infants under 1 year :—

	Male	Female
Legitimate ... ..	6	3
Illegitimate ... ..	1	—
	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 3



## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1951

Disease	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 year
Birth Injury ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Gastroenteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity ... ..	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Asphyxia Neonatorum ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>

The following table shows the comparative Mortality Rate during the past nine years:—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Enteritis under 2 years ... ..	1	2	—	—	2	3	—	1	1
Infantile Deaths under 1 year ... ..	8	16	16	13	12	13	7	12	10
Infantile Mortality ... ..	27.97	54.98	55.56	42.07	37.62	40.60	21.87	40.26	38.02

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the Laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Chest Physician, Regional Hospital Board ... ..	Sputa for B. Tuberculosis ... ..	27	151
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	—	11
Medical Superintendent, R.H.B. ... ..	do. ... ..	1	1
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for C. Diphtheriæ ... ..	—	12
Medical Superintendent, R.H.B. ... ..	do. ... ..	—	17
M.O.H. ... ..	Swabs for Hæm. Strep. ... ..	4	15
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	9	6
Medical Superintendent, R.H.B. ... ..	do. ... ..	12	7
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for Vincent's Angina ... ..	—	1
Medical Superintendent, R.H.B. ... ..	do. ... ..	3	14
General Practitioners ... ..	Swabs for other organisms ... ..	1	—
Medical Superintendent, R.H.B. ... ..	do. ... ..	1	2
M.O.H. ... ..	Fæces for Enteric & other organisms ... ..	1	3
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	3	14
M.O.H. ... ..	Urine for Enteric & other organisms ... ..	1	—
General Practitioners ... ..	do. ... ..	4	3
General Practitioners ... ..	Blood for Widal ... ..	—	3
General Practitioners ... ..	Swab for B. Pertussis ... ..	—	1

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulances are stationed as follows:—

Broomhill 2 (2 drivers).  
Stobswood 1 (1 driver).

The western part of the district is served by ambulances stationed in Morpeth, and the Lynemouth and Linton areas mainly by ambulances stationed at Ashington.

## NURSING IN THE HOME

Nurses are stationed as follows:—

Cambo 1; Meldon 1; Felton 1; ~~Longhorsley 1~~; and Widdrington 1.

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by two General Nurses and three Midwives based in Morpeth.

## CLINICS

All Maternity and Child Welfare services are provided by Northumberland County Council, and Clinics are held as follows:—

*Child Welfare Clinics.*—Cambo: Thursday, 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.

Linton: Alternate Fridays 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Longhorsley: Tuesday 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at 4-weekly intervals.

Lynemouth: Alternate Tuesdays 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Pegswood: Alternate Tuesdays 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Red Row: Every Wednesday 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Widdrington: Every Tuesday 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

*Toddlers' Clinics.*—Red Row: Wednesday at 4-weekly intervals, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.*—Lynemouth: Tuesday at 4-weekly intervals, 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Red Row: Wednesday at 4-weekly intervals, 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

*Ante-Natal Clinics.*—Lynemouth: Tuesday at 4-weekly intervals, 1-30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### WATER SUPPLIES

Considerable progress was made during the year with the various schemes for improving water supplies in different parts of the district.

#### BROOMHILL

The work of laying new water mains in Broomhill, Red Row and East Chevington was completed in November, 1951, and this has improved the water supply in these areas and has brought appreciably nearer the time when all the houses will have their own water connections and the water-carriage system of sewage disposal.

The water pressure is not yet entirely satisfactory and the full benefits of the scheme will not be realised until the proposed water storage tower is built and in operation.

#### CAMBO AND SCOTSGAP

Work on this scheme was completed in March, 1951, and by the end of the year 28 connections had been made, serving 49 properties with an adequate and wholesome water supply.

The properties supplied include Cambo village and school, Scotsgap Hotel, other houses in Scotsgap, the farms of Old Deanham, Scarlet Hall, Shaftoe Moor, Prior Hall, Elf Hills and Broom House.

#### LONGHORSLEY

Progress here was slow, owing mainly to the underlying rock in which the pipes had to be laid, and the scheme was not wholly completed by the end of the year.

The portion of the scheme supplying Gladstone's Buildings was, however, completed in October, 1951, and, since then, these houses, which for so many years had no source of supply other than a grossly polluted spring, have been receiving water derived from Tynemouth Corporation's water-main.

Nine other properties in Longhorsley were, also, connected to the new supply by the end of the year, and Haredene Farm and South Brocks Farm were connected directly to Tynemouth Corporation's water main.

#### ULGHAM, TRITLINGTON

Two new connections to this scheme were made during the year, as follows:—

Demesne Farm, Tritlington .	1
Cockle Park ... ..	1



## WATER SAMPLES

Twenty-five samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Westgate Road, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. The bacteriological results are as follows :—

Date	Place of Collection	N. of Colonies per ml.		Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
		37°C.	22°C.	
6/ 3/51	Hartburn School — Tap ... ..	—	—	Nil
6/ 3/51	Meldon Lodge — Tap ... ..	—	—	Nil
9/ 4/51	Wallington — Spring of (Cistern) Wallington ...	—	—	1
9/ 4/51	Wallington — Spring Tap. “Barn Flatt” ...	—	—	Nil
9/ 4/51	Hepscott — Reservoir — Water pumped Old Colliery adjoining. From pump at West View, Hepscott ...	—	—	Nil
9/ 4/51	Hepscott — Reservoir. From Pump, West View ...	—	—	3
9/ 4/51	Hepscott — Reservoir. Drawn from Old Charcoal Filter, “West View”, Hepscott ... ..	—	—	Nil
29/ 8/51	Abbey Mills, Mitford. Collecting cistern at source ...	—	—	Nil
29/ 8/51	Throphill Farm — Tap ... ..	—	—	8
2/10/51	Hartburn School — Tap ... ..	—	—	3
2/10/51	Scotsgap — Spring — Standpipe ... ..	—	—	180x
2/10/51	Middleton — Spring — Tap at Post Office ...	—	—	13
2/10/51	High Angerton — Spring — Tap ... ..	—	—	180x
9/10/51	Netherwitton — Tap — Spring ... ..	—	—	Nil
9/10/51	Longwitton, East Cottages. Tap — Spring ...	—	—	Nil
9/10/51	Longwitton, Hill Top. Tap — Spring ... ..	—	—	5
9/10/51	Hartburn, Needless Hall Moor Cottages, Pump Spring ...	—	—	14
16/10/51	Longhorsley Village, Local Supply — Spring ...	—	—	Nil
16/10/51	Causey Park Farm Cottages — Tap — Spring ...	—	—	Nil
16/10/51	Causey Park Village — Well — Spring ... ..	—	—	Nil
16/10/51	Fenrother Cottage. Tap — Bore Hole ... ..	—	—	1
31/10/51	Mitford. Keeper's Cottage — Tap ... ..	—	—	35
31/10/51	Mitford. Keeper's Cottage, Spring — Storage Chamber ... ..	—	—	180x
31/10/51	Meldon Village. School House — Spring ... ..	—	—	5
31/10/51	Mitford. East Coldside Farm — Tap ... ..	—	—	3

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

### Scotsgap

No progress was made during the year with the sewerage scheme for this village as permission to start was not given by the Government Department concerned.

### Cresswell

No progress was made with the erection of the proposed Public Convenience here owing to difficulties over materials in short supply.

The following works were undertaken during the year :—

New Drains to take Roof Water ... ..	Linhope Terrace and Swarland Terrace, East Chevington.
New Drains and Improvements to Septic Tank ...	Fairmoor; Taylor, Cresswell; Linden Lodge.
New Drains ... ..	Liddell, Mitford; McKenzie, Longhorsley; Whinney Crook.

## ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

New Eaves—Gutters and Downspouts to Houses ...	The Willows, Red Row; Colliery House, North Broomhill; Colliery House, Pegswood.
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Many private owners and the National Coal Board have carried out repairs to houses after informal notices.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Conversion to the water-carriage system took place as follows :—

Longhorsley	...	...	...	...	...	1
Mitford	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whinney Crook	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hepscott	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cresswell	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fairmoor	...	...	...	...	...	1
Broomhill	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
						9
						—

The privies at Longhirst School have been converted to water-carriage.

## SCHOOLS

There are 18 schools and all have a sufficient water supply. Fourteen schools have the water-carriage system. The four schools which have privies or pail closets are: Hepscott, Thirston, Mitford and Cambo.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse from many parishes is carried out by the Cleansing Department.

Four motor vehicles, one Bedford and three Karriers, ten cubic yards capacity, and two horses with specially-constructed carts are employed in this work. The majority of bins are emptied twice each week.

The following are the parishes which are included in the above service:—

1. Hepscott.	9. Widdrington.	17. Pigdon.
2. Pegswood.	10. East Chevington.	18. High and Low Highlaws.
3. Longhirst.	11. West Chevington.	19. Benridge.
4. Old Moor.	12. Hadstone.	20. Hebron.
5. Ellington.	13. East and West Thirston.	21. Cambo.
6. Lynemouth.	14. Longhorsley.	22. Wallington.
7. Cresswell.	15. Tranwell.	
8. Ulgham.	16. Mitford and Spital Hill.	

In the parishes of East and West Thirston, Longhirst, East and West Chevington, Cresswell, Hepscott, Pigdon, Hebron, Cambo and Longhorsley, the majority of houses have privy middens or pail closets.

The number of houses in the 22 parishes scavenged is 4,275 and the population is 16,250.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 13,133 tons and the estimated cost per ton for collection and disposal is 11/1½.

The total number of houses in the area of the Morpeth Rural District at the end of 1951 was 4,707, and the estimated population is 17,910.

The mileage travelled by the four motor vehicles was 33,753.

## SHOPS

No action has been found necessary.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

New Licences granted to station moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	3
Renewal Licences	...	...	...	...	...	6

The Council has leased land from the National Coal Board at Cresswell for a Caravan Site. The site is close to the sea and has a water supply and sanitary conveniences for males and females.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been found necessary.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of private houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	1
Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	...	...	...	Nil
Number of houses disinfected during the year	...	...	...	20

The method employed for the disinfestation of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" as a spray and sulphur dioxide.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The scavenging tips, disposal works, sewers and many inhabited areas have, during the year, received attention from the Council's Rodent Operator.

Situation of tips: Broomhill 1; East Chevington 1; Widdrington 1; Longhirst 1; Pegswood 1; Lynemouth 1; Longhorsley 1; Hepscott 1; and Old Moor 1.



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending 31st December, 1951

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-Laws.	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of Statutory Notices served	Defects remedied after Statutory Notice	Legal Proceedings.
<b>HOUSING</b>							
Structural Defects (Summary of Sheet 11) ... ..	1560	180	91	180	—	—	—
Defective Food Store ... ..	39	18	18	18	—	—	—
Dampness ... ..	144	97	3	97	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	42	42	—	—	—	—	—
<b>WATER SUPPLY</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	21	2	2	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>DRAINAGE</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	212	106	4	106	—	—	—
Defective ... ..	20	8	8	8	—	—	—
<b>SANITARY CONVENIENCES</b>							
Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective ... ..	68	44	6	44	—	—	—
Food Premises ... ..	245	2	2	2	—	—	—
Shop Acts ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies ... ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc. ... ..	142	8	7	7	1	—	1
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces ... ..	54	2	2	2	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals ... ..	9	2	2	2	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	126	84	36	84	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	6	1	1	1	—	—	—
Total ...	2706	596	182	551	1	—	1

## SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES			
Privies abolished ... ..	9	—	9
Privies repaired ... ..	82	—	82
Pail Closets abolished ... ..	—	—	—
Water Closets provided ... ..	9	—	9
No. of above for which Grant was given, P.H.A., 1936, S.47 ... ..	9	—	9
Sanitary Bins provided ... ..	9	—	9
Sanitary Bins renewed ... ..	102	—	102
DRAINAGE			
New Drains constructed ... ..	12	—	12
Drains repaired or reconstructed ...	—	—	—
Additional Gullies provided ... ..	72	—	72
Old Gullies replaced ... ..	—	—	—
Scullery Sinks provided ... ..	10	—	10
Scullery Waste Pipes repaired ...	2	—	2
Scullery Waste Pipes trapped ...	1	—	1
Yards repaired or reconstructed ...	8	—	8
WATER SUPPLY			
Sources closed or discontinued . Nil	Number of Houses affected . Nil		
NEW SERVICES PROVIDED			
By Local Authority ... .. Cambo	Number of Houses ... .. 31		
By Private Owner ... .. Nil	Number of Houses ... .. Nil		
No. of Dwelling Houses supplied by	(a) Internal Tap ...	3,062 approx.	
	(b) Standpipe ... ..	1,157	

## FACTORIES ACT

There are in the district 33 factories and workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1951.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1.—*INSPECTIONS* for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	33	53	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938 ... ..	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	33	53	—	—



2.—Cases in which *DEFECTS* were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	2	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	—	—	1	—

SECTION D  
HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

Houses Completed during the year			With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a)	By Local Authority,	Permanent ...	12	—	12
		Temporary ...	—	—	—
(b)	By other Bodies or Persons,				
		Permanent ...	—	9	9
		Temporary ...	—	—	—

# RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

## 1. INSPECTION OF HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

Progress Report up to 31/12/51

- i

Satisfactory in all respects.

ii

Minor defects.

iii

Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
- iv

Appropriate for reconditioning (also included in Column iii).
- v

Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at a reasonable cost.

Total No. of Houses to be surveyed	R.V. Limit of Houses within Survey	STATE OF SURVEY			Total No. of Houses surveyed to 31-12-51	CLASSIFICATION OF HOUSES SURVEYED — NUMBER AND PERCENTAGES					Houses Condemned but occu- pied under licence	Over- crowded Houses	Applications for New Houses
		Com- pleted	In Progress	Not yet Com- menced		i	ii	iii	iv	v			
4500	—	1577	323	2600	1577	235 14.9%	157 9.95%	342 21.69%	779 49.4%	64 4.06%	1	42	258

Standard of Survey		Method of Inspection		
Under Housing Act (Legal Stan-dard)	County Stan-dard)	Detailed	Brief	Com-promise
	Yes	Yes	No	No

Applications dealt with by R.D.Cs.				Applications submitted by Regional Office of Ministry		
Received	Approved	Rejected	Under Considera-tion	No. Sent	No. Approved	No. Under Considera-tion
4	4	—	—	4	4	—



## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its Officers ... 92

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

### (A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil  
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—  
 (a) By Owners ... Nil  
 (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

### (B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil  
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—  
 (a) By Owners ... Nil  
 (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

### (C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil  
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil  
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses closed but not demolished (H.A., 1949, S.3) ... 3

### (D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil  
 (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

## 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES PERMANENTLY DISCONTINUED AS DWELLINGS AND NOT INCLUDED ABOVE ... 1

# SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLIES

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on samples of milk, set out in various categories:—

Total number of samples taken ... 23  
 Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) ... 10  
 Producers outside the Rural District (taken by "Inside" Officials) ... 3  
 Producers inside the Rural District (taken by "Outside" Officials) ... 10

#### Farms Inside Rural District (Samples by "Inside" Officials)

Tuberculin Tested ..... 4 samples  
 2 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 2 Failed Methylene Blue Test

(All 4 samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — All negative.)

Undesignated ..... 6 samples  
 4 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test  
 x 2 Failed Methylene Blue Test

(5 Samples were examined for B. Tuberculosis.)

(x Both samples "Positive." Others "Negative.")

#### Farms Outside Rural District (Samples by "Inside" Officials)

Pasteurised ..... 3 Samples  
 2 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test.  
 1 Failed Methylene Blue Test.  
 (None examined for B. Tuberculosis)

*Farms " Inside " Rural District (Samples by " Outside " Officials)*

Tuberculin Tested .....	9 Samples
x (1) 7 Satisfied Methylene Blue Test	
x (2) 2 Failed Methylene Blue Test	
(x (1) 3 Samples examined for B. Tuberculosis — All negative)	
(x (2) 1 Sample examined for B. Tuberculosis — Inconclusive))	
Undesignated .....	1 Sample
1 Sample examined for B. Tuberculosis only —	Negative

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS**

The following foods were surrendered in the Morpeth Rural District to the Council's Meat Inspector :—

Bacon (Tinned) ... ..	8½ lbs.
Ham (Tinned Cooked) ... ..	203 lbs.
Luncheon Meat ... ..	16 tins 13 lbs.
Pork Luncheon Meat ... ..	3 tins 1¼ lbs.
Jellied Veal ... ..	2 tins 12 lbs.
Beef and Gravy ... ..	2 tins 3¾ lbs.
Pork and Beef Loaf ... ..	2 tins 1½ lbs.
Minced Beef Loaf ... ..	4 tins 3 lbs.
Meat Paste ... ..	2 jars 5½ ozs.
Pork Sausage ... ..	9½ lbs.
Crab Meat ... ..	2 tins 7/8 lbs.
Salmon ... ..	16 tins 15½ lbs.
Sardines ... ..	1 tin 4½ ozs.
Brislings ... ..	1 tin 3¾ ozs.
Evaporated Milk ... ..	20 tins 40 pts.
Vegetable Soup ... ..	1 tin 15½ ozs.
Tomatoes ... ..	19 tins 18½ lbs.
Tomatoes (Large Size) ... ..	2 tins 2 tins
Tomatoes ... ..	2½ size 7 tins
Peas ... ..	10 tins 8½ lbs.
Beans ... ..	7 tins 6½ lbs.
Apple Juice ... ..	1 tin 17/8 lbs.
Pineapple ... ..	1 tin 11 ozs.
Australian Fruits ... ..	7 tins 13⅛ lbs.
Jam ... ..	2 jars 2 lbs.
Rhubarb ... ..	1 tin 1⅛ lbs.
Greengages ... ..	1 tin 15 ozs.
Sliced Apples ... ..	1 tin 14½ ozs.
Grapes ... ..	1 tin 1 lb.

**FOOD TRADERS' GUILD**

In December 1950 the Public Health Committee decided to investigate the possibility of forming a Food Traders' Guild with the object of improving the standard of hygiene in food premises within the district.

A circular letter was sent to sixty-two traders inviting them to attend a meeting to consider the formation of a guild. Only nine replies were received but the Committee, with the support of the Council, decided to go ahead with the scheme and a meeting was held on 8th March, 1951.

At this meeting there was a fairly encouraging attendance and, after talks by the Chairman of the Council (Alderman Patton), the Chairman of the Public Health Committee (Councillor T. P. H. Sanderson), Dr. Cormack and the Medical Officer of Health, followed by some general discussion, it was resolved to form a guild and an Advisory Committee was set up.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on 5th April. The Council was represented by three members and it was decided that the Committee should, in addition, consist of representatives from the following :

Dairymen's Association, Bakers, Fish Friers, School Meals' Service, Factory and Colliery Canteens, Grocers and Provision Merchants, Butchers, Hotel Keepers, Publicans, General Dealers, Cafes and Ice-cream Manufacturers.



The next meeting was held on 12th April when it was decided to add a Social Clubs' representative and a housewife consumer member to the Committee.

A " Basic Code of Practice " was considered and adopted. It was resolved to invite a representative from the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers and from the Bakers' Union.

On 24th May a further meeting of the Committee decided to send a copy of the " Basic Code of Practice " to all traders.

Conditions relating to the Administration and Membership of the Guild were adopted and a " Code of Practice for Employees " was approved.

At the fourth meeting, on 12th July, fourteen applications for membership were considered. Four of these were granted, six were not granted and four were granted on condition that slight improvements were made to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector.

A design for badges and certificates was adopted.

On 16th August nine more applications were considered and, of these, four were granted and five refused.

Specimen certificates and cards for employees were approved.

At the following month's meeting attendance was very small and no further applications were received.

The decline in attendance at meetings led the committee to consider at its next meeting on 14th November, whether the Guild should continue, but the final decision was that it should do so.

The Committee resolved to issue provisional certificates clearly distinguishable from full membership certificates and to order 150 badges.

Conditions relating to the issue of badges and certificates were decided and the question of badges for vans was considered and requirements specified.

The Advisory Committee met again on 11th December, when further consideration was given to applications previously refused, with the following results:—

Full certificates granted	...	...	...	...	5
Provisional certificates granted	...	...	...	...	5
Granted, subject to certain requirements being					
satisfied	...	...	...	...	2
Refused	...	...	...	...	4

The position at the end of the year showed that some progress had been made. In several cases, satisfactory improvements had been carried out in certain premises in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the Sanitary Inspector.

On the whole, however, results were disappointing. The majority of food handlers had failed to display any interest in this attempt to improve the hygiene of their methods and their premises. The efforts made by the Committee and the very considerable additional work done by the Sanitary Inspectors were out of proportion to the results achieved. This may in part have been due to what is a weakness inherent in any attempt to establish a guild in a rural area viz. a lack of competition. With food shops and premises widely distributed there is less incentive, than in an urban area, to rivalry between dealers.

It would indeed be a pity, after so much preliminary work has been done, if the whole scheme should have to be abandoned but very much more work will have to be done if this is to be avoided.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board, at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
UNDER AGE GROUPS

	Age unkn'wn	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5 - 10	10 - 15
Pneumonia ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	1	—	3	3	3	10	6
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	7	21	28	32	25	51	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1	—	3	1	3	3	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Total Cases Notified	Admit'd to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	3	4	1	13	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	30	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	2	1	1	—	4	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	165	2	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—

### ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

This term includes deaths from the following seven diseases only : Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.

The Zymotic Death Rate was 0.056 per 1,000 of the population.

### ENTERIC FEVERS

No case of either Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever was notified during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER

This disease continues to be very mild in character. No death occurred in the 30 cases notified.

### MEASLES

The very high incidence of Measles noted at the end of 1950 continued into 1951 and 110 cases were notified during the first two months. Altogether 165 cases were reported but no deaths occurred.

### DIPHTHERIA

It is gratifying to report that for the second successive year not a single case of Diphtheria occurred in any part of the district.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Since visits were paid to all schools in the district in 1950 it was not possible to visit any schools in 1951.

The primary course of treatment was given at Welfare Centres and by private doctors to 300 pre-schoolchildren and 19 schoolchildren. In addition, 209 children received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1951, the immunisation state of the child population was estimated to be as follows :—

Pre-schoolchildren immunised	...	...	989	...	62.01 %
Schoolchildren immunised	...	...	2,621	...	Almost 100 %
Total children immunised	...	...	3,610	...	85.73 %



The immunisation campaign continues to meet with a very good response from parents in the district and it is most earnestly to be hoped that their support and co-operation will be maintained in the future. It may fairly be claimed that the absence of Diphtheria from the district for two years is the result and the reward of the intensive and persistent endeavour which has now been going on for ten years, to protect children against this deadly disease.

The success of these efforts must not be permitted to lull anybody into a sense of security which would be entirely false. Diphtheria has not been permanently defeated. It could again become a menace to health, happiness and life itself if the efforts which keep it at bay were to be relaxed. Parents must remember this and must never think that because Diphtheria is absent from the community there is no need to have their children protected.

The following table, which contains figures supplied by the Ministry of Health and the Registrar-General, is of interest in that it shows the remarkable decline in Diphtheria in England and Wales since the beginning of the Diphtheria Immunisation Campaign in 1941 :—

TOTAL OF DEATHS AND NOTIFICATIONS DURING THE PAST 12 YEARS

Year		Deaths		Cases (Original Uncorrected)		Corrected
1940	...	2,480	...	46,281	...	—
1941	...	2,641	...	50,797	...	—
1942	...	1,827	...	41,404	...	—
1943	...	1,371	...	34,662	...	—
1944	...	934	...	(29,949)	...	23,199
1945	...	722	...	(25,246)	...	18,596
1946	...	472	...	(18,283)	...	11,986
1947	...	244	...	(10,465)	...	5,609
1948	...	156	...	(8,035)	...	3,575
1949	...	84	...	(4,971)	...	1,890
1950	...	49	...	(2,833)	...	962
1951	...	34	...	—	...	699

The average annual number of deaths for the ten-year period 1931/40 was 2,800.

TUBERCULOSIS

*New Cases and Mortality during 1951*

				NEW CASES				DEATHS			
				Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 5 years	...	...	...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 15 years	...	...	...	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 25 years	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 - 35 years	...	...	...	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 45 years	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 65 years	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65 years	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
				8	5	3	—	—	1	1	—

TUBERCULOSIS

There were notified during the year 13 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There was one death from the Pulmonary type of the disease and one from the Non-Pulmonary. Compared with 2 and 1 respectively in 1950.

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 0.11.

Death rate per 1,000 of population in England and Wales — 0.31.



# CANCER MORTALITY DURING 1951

	MALES						FEMALES									
	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total	20-	30-	35-	40-	45-	50-	55-	60-	65-	Total
Jaw ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Larynx ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus ... ..	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus ... ..	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Breast ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bone ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Stomach ... ..	1	1	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	4	7
Liver ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Gall-bladder ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bowel ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectum ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Bladder ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Uterus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Cervix ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Unknown ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glands ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	1	1	2	1	11	16	1	—	—	1	1	1	3	2	11	20

Death rate per 1,000 of population — 2.01.

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1951

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1951. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

								England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
								Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
<i>Births</i>											
	Live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8
	Still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37
<i>Deaths</i>											
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1
	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38
	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
	Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>											
	Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
	Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01
	Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15
	Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72
	Acute Poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...				
	Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
	Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02
	Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23
<i>Deaths</i>											
								Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
	All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.6 (a)	33.9	27.6	26.4
	Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7
<i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>											
								Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
	Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90

## MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES

		Number of Deaths	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rates per million women aged 15-44
A115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	70	0.10	—
	{ Abortion with toxæmia	3	0.00	0
A116	} Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	167	0.24	
A117	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth	91	0.13	
A118	Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia	37	0.05	4
A119	Abortion with sepsis	66	0.09	7
A120	Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	125	0.18	

(a) per 1,000 related live births.







